SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15 OCTOBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillor C Lamb (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: R Taylor, C Ross, S Ayris, T Damms, P Haith, C Hogarth, C Ransome, J Satur and Dr A Billings

CFO J Courtney, QFSM, DCFO M Blunden, ACFO A Johnson, S Booth, C Pike, S Gilding and AM T Carlin
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

A Brown, N Copley, A Frosdick, M McCarthy, L Noble, D Cutting and M McCoole
(Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor T Hussain, Councillor M Clements and D Terris

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Lamb stated that this weekend would mark the centenary of the establishment of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). He congratulated the FBU, on behalf of the Authority and officers present, for its longevity and the work undertaken to ensure the existence of harmonious relationships within the fire and rescue service.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda Item 23 'Contingency Firefighting Arrangements' to be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Members provided a summary of the visits attended since the last Authority meeting held on 17 September 2018. There had been a visit to Rotherham Fire Station for the passing out of the Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) Course, and to the Burton Street Foundation, which was a not for profit community centre, whose speciality was the work undertaken with adults and children with learning disabilities. The Burton Street Foundation had been part funded by a Round 3 Stronger Safer Communities Reserve grant.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED – That Members agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 2018/19 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT: AN UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted as the second in a series of reports that Members would receive throughout the financial year, to provide the likely financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2019, an estimated revenue outturn position when compared to the annual budget set on 19 February 2018, an updated general reserves position statement and an update on the capital programme, alongside a narrative commentary on the key financial changes that were contributing to each of them.

Members noted the expected underspend for the 2018/19 financial year of £153k against a budget of almost £50m. Members' attention was drawn to the significant risks in relation to the ongoing detriment claims relating to the Employment Tribunal from SYFR staff that had been displaced as a result of Close Proximity Crewing (CPC) and the Judicial Review for CPC. The detriment claims were currently entering a second week at the Employment Tribunal; the outcome would be reported back to the Authority. SYFR had a potential claim against Systel in relation to unresolved contractual issues, to which the additional CPC costs could be partly offset. A meeting would be held on 22 October 2018, to discuss the outstanding amount that Systel owed to SYFR, as a result of not delivering within the specified time stated in the contract.

The Director of Support Services would ascertain whether all of the fees that were paid to BMBC were published within the Contracts Register on the SYFR website; Members would be informed accordingly.

Councillor Lamb gave thanks, on behalf of the Authority, to the BMBC officers in relation to their continued dedication, and for the renegotiation of the new Service Level Agreement for the provision of services to the Authority in 2018/19, which had resulted in a significant saving of £106k.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

i) Noted that the outcome of the detriment claims for SYFR staff in relation to Close Proximity Crewing would be reported back to the Authority.

ii) Would be informed whether all of the fees that were paid to BMBC were published within the Contracts Register on the SYFR website.

iii) Noted and considered the latest estimated revenue performance which was showing an operating underspend of £0.153m for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

iv) Noted the latest estimated increase in General Reserves of £0.602m for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 which was broadly in line with expectations when the budget was set by Members in February 2018.

v) Noted the likely net impact of known financial risks that are as yet not able to be fully quantified at this stage in the financial year.

vi) Noted the current capital programme position and approved the revised reprofiling of spend across each category.

11 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017/18

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to provide Members with the SYFR Annual Report for 2017/18, including performance and achievements over the past year.

Members noted that the Annual Report for 2017/18 would be made available on the SYFR website. Discussions were underway with the HOPE Charity's Chair and Trustees to determine how to sustain HOPE moving forwards and to identify potential funding streams.

SYFR would liaise with Members in relation to the progression of the IRMP, and to seek Member input. Members agreed to consolidate the Annual Corporate Performance Report and the Annual Statement of Assurance.

Councillor Lamb gave thanks to everyone involved in the preparation of the report, and to all SYFR staff for the work undertaken which had achieved a significant reduction in the number of fire injuries and deaths that had occurred in South Yorkshire over the last 12 months.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

i) Endorsed the contents of the report.

ii) Agreed to consolidate future reporting.

12 JOINT VEHICLE FLEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted in relation to the Joint Vehicle Fleet Management (JVFM) Strategy that had been established to provide a focus for the activities of the JVFM Department in support of the wider organisational priorities, and to outline how it was intended to ensure the South Yorkshire Police (SYP), SYFR vehicles and associated vehicle equipment were procured, maintained and replaced.

Members noted that there is one workshop in Sheffield and two workshops in Rotherham. It was the intention to rationalise the number of workshop premises to two, and to enable both SYP and SYFR to have access to the centres of excellence in light and heavy vehicle fleet management.

RESOLVED – That Members supported the Joint Vehicle Fleet Management Strategy.

13 IRMP - POST JUDICIAL REVIEW

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented in relation to the cessation of Close Proximity Crewing (CPC), following the recent Judicial Review which had found in favour of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). A full and comprehensive review of SYFR's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) would be undertaken to enable CPC to be removed.

AM Carlin would arrange to meet with Members on a District basis in relation to SYFR's staffing duty systems, and the consultation process on the IRMP.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the outlined plan.

14 SSCR SPRINKLER FUND

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to provide details of a further bid to the Sprinkler Fund for the Authority to consider supporting.

An application had been made from Berneslai Homes for the purchase of four portable personal protection systems, to be utilised for those residents that were deemed to be at a very immediate risk of fire, as a temporary risk reduction method whilst alternative longer term solutions were considered. The total cost of the systems, including training in maintenance and installation was £8,652.00, with an SYFR contribution of £4,326.00.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to fund the Fire Sprinkler Project from the Stronger Safer Community Reserve Sprinkler Fund.

15 CLOSURE OF TRADING COMPANY - SSUK

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to provide a chronology of the Authority's involvement since the inception of Safety Solutions UK Ltd (SSUK) in 2012, to its proposed closure, and the opportunity to approve the company's closure by means of this concluding report.

Members requested that a report be presented to a future Authority meeting to enable them to note the revised financial position of the total amount that had been transferred back to the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members noted:-

i) The report.

ii) The closure of Safety Solutions UK Ltd.

iii) A report to be submitted to a future Authority meeting, to enable Members to note the revised financial position and the total amount that had been transferred back to the Authority.

16 MINUTES OF THE SSUK SHAREHOLDER MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED – That Members noted the minutes of the SSUK Shareholder Meeting held on 17 September 2018.

17 FINAL REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted, which was the final report in a series of reports that provided Members with progress updates on improvements to the SYFR procurement service.

KPMG, the external auditors, had reported to the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held in July 2018 that, following significant improvements made, they had removed the Adverse Value For Money Conclusion for procurement practices, and had provided an Unqualified Opinion for SYFR for the financial year 2017/18.

David Nichols, the new Procurement Manager, would commence in post from 15 October 2018, to take over the management of the procurement service.

SYFR and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service were considering collaborative working opportunities, with an expectation to achieve savings. Collaborative opportunities would also be considered with Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Members requested that an update report be presented to the Authority on a 6 monthly basis, to establish how the SYFR procurement service performed against the procurement strategy timeline.

RESOLVED:- That Members noted:-

i) The contents of the report.

ii) An update report would be presented to the Authority on a 6 monthly basis, to establish how the SYFR procurement service performed against the procurement strategy timeline.

18 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

Members were presented with a key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6 September 2018. It was noted that equality and inclusion would be a standing item on future agendas.

Councillor Lamb expressed his thanks to Councillor Damms as Chair of the Board, together with the other Members on the Board.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6 September 2018.

19 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION BOARD

Members noted that the Joint Community Safety Department (JCSD) had become 'live' in June 2018; AM Helps was the Joint Head of the Department, supported by SYP colleagues. A service review phase of the department was currently underway to create a streamlined collaborative service, which would conclude in mid to late November 2018. The results of the review would be reported to the Police and Fire Delivery Board, which DCFO Blunden co-chaired with DCC Roberts; following which monitoring and guidance to the department's Head and Police and Fire Governance Boards would commence. A JCSD Assurance Board had been established, which ACO Johnson co-chaired with ACC Hartley, to ensure that business was delivered as usual across joint community safety for SYP and SYFR.

L Murray, the Joint Head of Estates, had been developing plans for the JCSD, including drafting the Terms of Reference. The SYP and SYFR legal teams continued to work on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to which the Authority had approved the overarching agreement earlier in the year. The specific underpinning agreements around Fleet, Estates, Facilities Management and JCSD were being prepared, to be presented to the Police and Fire Delivery Board on 19 October 2018 and to the Police and Fire Collaboration Board on 22 October 2018.

A total of 14 managers across SYP and SYFR had undertaken collaborative leadership training in September 2018; benefits of the joint working had already been observed. SYFR had recently appointed a Collaborative Programme

Manager to undertake work in partnership with SYP, to commence at the end of the calendar year.

Councillor Lamb gave thanks to everyone involved in the SYFR and SYP collaboration.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

20 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 17 September 2018.

21 MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED – That Members noted the minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers Association held on 2 October 2018.

22 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

23 CONTINGENCY FIREFIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with an update on the Home Office expectations of Fire and Rescue Services, the current arrangements with regards to the business continuity plans for Industrial Action, and to enable Members' consideration of a proposal and associated costs regarding the provision of Officer in Charge on fire appliances during any period of Industrial Action.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the proposal to renew the contract for a further 12 month period.

Councillor Ayris voted against the proposal to renew the contract for a further 12 month period.

Councillors Taylor and Hogarth abstained from voting for the proposal to renew the contract for a further 12 month period.

CHAIR